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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Request for CIA Briefing of Military Operations Subcommittee of the House Committee on Government Operations

1. This memorandum suggests action on the part of the Director of Central Intelligence. Such requested action is contained in paragraph 7.

2. Congressman William E. Minshall of Ohio, through the Subcommittee staff, has requested a CIA briefing of himself and certain staff members on the USSR satellite and guided missile program. In addition to the substantive briefing they would like to learn how much information we are able to secure on these subjects and, when it has been evaluated, to what use is the information put and where does it go within the Government.

3. It was explained that Minshall had discussed this question with Representative Chet Holifield, Chairman of the Subcommittee, who suggested that the staff explore the matter and that he would be willing to write a letter to the Agency requesting this. Congressman Holifield was not present at the briefing conducted by General Cabell of the Military Applications Subcommittee of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee although as a member of the full Committee he had been extended an invitation to be present by Senator Jackson, Chairman of the Subcommittee.

4. Herbert Reback, Staff Director of the Military Operations Subcommittee, stated that Congressman Minshall had hoped for an informal briefing with questions and answers for the purpose of providing education and background for the Subcommittee and staff

members. We were informed that all of the staff members held Department of Defense Top Secret clearance and Q clearance from Atomic Energy Commission.

5. It was indicated that the Pentagon has briefed them on the USSR missile program and General Betts gave them a Top Secret document which purported to be an intelligence appraisal of the Soviet program. At the present time Congressman Minshall is the only member of the Subcommittee in Washington and he will leave town at the end of this week and after a few days at home will be departing the country for Germany.



7. It is difficult for me to make any firm recommendation on this, but I do believe a flat turndown should be accompanied by appropriate reasons. On the other hand, you may wish to request that Chairman Hollifield forward a letter specifying in detail the matters to be covered. In a reply to such a letter it is possible that you may wish to indicate to Congressman Hollifield that such a briefing to the full Subcommittee could be arranged. This would have the effect of postponing any action until after the first of the year when the members will be returning to Washington. In view of Congressman Minshall's departure at the end of the week, I believe, as a matter of courtesy, we should advise the Subcommittee of our views within the next day or so.

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Legislative Counsel

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